

HOUSE RESOLUTION 88

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Sam T. "Bo" Carter for his years of contribution to the field of sports information and media relations.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community and professional leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is sports information and media relations expert Sam T. "Bo" Carter, who has worked in the particular professional field fulltime for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, this hard-working professional began his love of sports information and media relations at his high school in Sheffield, Alabama, as a student publications and high school sports correspondent for area news media. At his high school, Mr. Carter earned the prestigious status of Salutatorian and received the Blair Memorial Medal for the top Grade Point Average of his graduating class in 1970; and

WHEREAS, from 1970-1974, Mr. Carter served as a student assistant at Vanderbilt University where he produced publications, media guides, newsletters, game programs, game notes, and statistics for all eight varsity sports. From 1972-1974, he was a takeout writer for Nashville's *Tennessean* and covered Vanderbilt baseball and freshman junior varsity football and basketball; he also served on the staff of Vanderbilt's school newspaper, the *Hustler*, and the sports staff of the *Commodore* publication; and

WHEREAS, even with his many responsibilities and commitments at Vanderbilt University, Bo Carter managed to graduate Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974; and

WHEREAS, continuing his passion for sports after graduation, Bo Carter became Mississippi State University's Athletics Assistant Sports Information Director in 1974, served as the Sports Information Director from 1978-1986 and also stood as the Sports Editor for Mississippi State University's *Alumnus* magazine; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter was the Director of Media Relations for the Southwest Conference from 1986-1996, serving as Assistant Commissioner from 1995-1996; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Bo Carter became the Director of Media Relations of the Big 12 conference, only to later become the Sports Information Director and Historian of the conference in July of 2004; and

WHEREAS, throughout his impressive career, Mr. Carter has served with many organizations, including the National Collegiate Athletic Association Communications Committee, the National Research and Record Book Committee, and the Starkville, Mississippi Area Chamber of Commerce and Membership Committee and has commendably served with several fund-raising campaigns and stewardship committees; and

WHEREAS, Bo Carter currently lends his time and talents to the following associations: the Football Writers Association of America, the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, and the Texas Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction in numerous leadership roles, including a President of the National College Baseball Writers Association; former South Region Director and current South Region Executive Director; Public Relations Chair of the Mississippi Area 6 Special Olympics; Public Relations Liaison of the Dizzy Dean World Series; Press Box and Statistics' Assistant of Mississippi High School Football and Basketball All-Star Games; and as the Society of American Baseball Research's National Convention Publication's Chair; and

WHEREAS, this ambitious, hard-working man has provided of his time and talent to cover an impressive twenty-one NCAA Baseball World Series, six NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Final Fours, three postseason National Invitation Tournaments, the first and second rounds of nineteen NCAA Basketball Tournament, twelve NCAA Basketball regionals, and eighteen SBC Cotton Bowl Classics; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in sports information and media relations, Bo Carter has been involved in the development of many publications, including acting as Editor for chapters on scoring and statistics in the *Ron Polk Baseball Playbook*; editing thirty-one football media guides, thirteen basketball guides, and thirty-one baseball guides; editing SABR national convention anthology; and editing *SWC Baseball: The Last Roundup* with Chuck Pickard; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as a co-author with Dennis Dodd on the *Big 12 Handbook*, co-author with Mike McKenzie on *Tales from Aggieland*, and co-author with Gene Kirby on *The Dizzy World of Dizzy Dean*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many sports related responsibilities, Mr. Carter also finds the time to serve on his local church's parish council; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberation to acknowledge and applaud Bo Carter for his dedication to the betterment of sports information and media relations and to extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Sam T. "Bo" Carter's numerous, noteworthy contributions to the sports information and media relations world and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.